

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated December 29, 2006.

Applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 21-32 are pending in this application. Claims 27-32 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 21-26 have been rejected.

Claims 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101(a) as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 21 was amended to provide a method of controlling timed events arranged to occur during a plurality of timeframes in a period. For example, switching off of the lights is scheduled for 9 PM during a weekday frame, which includes Monday through Friday time units, and 7 PM during the weekend frame, which includes Saturday through Sunday time units. Thus, because Friday is included in the weekday frame, the switching off of the lights on Friday afternoon will take place in accordance with the weekday frame at 9 PM.

The tangible result produced by the invention of claim 21 is in that "all controlled events programmed to occur in the at least one timeframe during a time included in the portion of the time unit will occur during the included portion of the time unit". In other words, using the above example, if Friday's afternoon portion was set to be included in the weekend frame, then switching off of the lights on Friday afternoon will take place in accordance with the weekend frame at 7 PM.

Thus, Applicants' independent claim 21 is placed in condition for allowability. Claims 22-26 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 21 and are, therefore, allowable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in the respective independent claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all claims in this application are now in condition for allowance, prompt notification of which is requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH
THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS
FILING SYSTEM ON March 27, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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